

How much stronger our country would be if our leaders took to heart the prophetic words that Eisenhower spoke in his 1961 farewell address to the American people:

Ike said, "As we peer into society's future, we must avoid the impulse to live only for today, plundering for our own ease and convenience the precious resources of tomorrow. We cannot mortgage the material assets of our grandchildren without risking the loss also of their political and spiritual heritage. We want democracy to survive for all generations to come, and not to become the insolvent phantom of tomorrow."

As always, Eisenhower matched his words with actions. There have been four balanced federal budgets in the last half century. And Ike gave us three of them. He knew that it was easy to be popular. It is easy to say "yes" to every federal program. But he also knew that more important than being popular for a moment is to provide leadership that stands the test of time.

Along with trusting the American people, Ike also trusted the values that built our country, and that were instilled in him by his parents in Abilene. Values like hard work. Honesty. Personal responsibility. Common sense. Compassion for those in need. And, above all, love of family, God, and country.

These are the values that built America, and they are values that must never go out of fashion, or be regarded as "politically incorrect," by our government or by those in our entertainment industry.

Along with trusting our citizens, and trusting our values, there's one final lesson about trust that Eisenhower's life and career can teach us. And that's the fact that the world must always be able to count on American leadership.

And that's a lesson I hope we especially remembered yesterday, the 50th anniversary of VE Day. It was American leadership that built the arsenal of democracy which made that victory possible. It was American leadership that held the Allies together during the darkest days of the war. And it was American leadership which conquered the forces of tyranny and restored liberty and democracy to Europe.

Make no mistake about it, leadership carries a price. It did during World War II. It did during the Eisenhower Administration. And it does today. But it is a price worth paying. As Ike said in his Second Inaugural Address, "The building of \* \* \* peace is a bold and solemn purpose. To proclaim it is easy. To serve it will be hard. And to attain it, we must be aware of its full meaning—and ready to pay its full price."

And Ike never forgot just what that full price meant. He said that whenever he returned to Normandy after the war, his foremost thoughts were not with the planes and the ships or the guns. Rather, he said, "I thought of the families back home that had lost men at this place."

I was privileged to walk the beaches of Normandy and to return to the hills of Italy where I saw action during the D-Day commemorations last June. And I, too, thought of the families back home that had lost men, and how we must never forget the cause for which they fought and died. And the only way to ensure that future generations of Americans will not be buried on foreign land, is to continue to provide leadership whenever and wherever it is needed.

Ladies and gentlemen, I am honored by the confidence bestowed in me through this leadership award and will do my best to meet the high expectations left by the legacy of Dwight Eisenhower.

In closing, I want to share with you a few more words of this American hero—and they

were words he spoke on that rainy day in Abilene 43 years ago.

Returning home led Ike to think about growing up in Kansas, and he said "I found out in later years we were very poor, but the glory of America is that we didn't know it then: all that we knew was that our parents \* \* \* could say to us, "Opportunity is all about you. Reach out and take it."

By working together and trusting one another, we can ensure that for generations yet to come, America's parents will still be able to say those words to their sons and daughters. This is what we owe to the memory of people like Dwight Eisenhower and all the GIs of World War II we remembered yesterday. But ultimately, we owe it to ourselves, to our children, and to the future of the country we love.

#### FREEDOM SHRINE FOR THE HOT SPRINGS VA MEDICAL CENTER

Mr. PRESSLER. Mr. President, an exciting event recently took place in the southern Black Hills of South Dakota. The Freedom Shrine, a collection of documents from U.S. history, was dedicated at the Hot Springs VA Medical Center in Hot Springs, SD.

I commend Maurice Wintersteen, the Exchange Club of Rapid City, and Hot Springs VA Director Dan Marsh, for their efforts to bring the Freedom Shrine to Hot Springs. Late last year, Maurice Wintersteen approached the Exchange Club of Rapid City about sponsoring a freedom shrine in the local VA Hospital. The Exchange Club of Rapid City agreed to his request, and Director Marsh threw his full support behind the project.

As a result of their dedicated efforts, the Freedom Shrine became a reality and was placed in the rotunda of the VA Domiciliary Building. The Freedom Shrine displays reproductions of 28 historic American documents, including the U.S. Constitution, President Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, and President Kennedy's Inaugural Address. It is my understanding the Hot Springs VA Hospital is the only VA facility in the Nation to have such a freedom shrine.

It is very fitting that the Freedom Shrine was dedicated on the 50th anniversary of the death of President Franklin Roosevelt—the man who led a worldwide alliance against a tyranny that threatened freedom-loving people throughout the world. The Freedom Shrine serves as an essential reminder to all Americans that the freedom we enjoy today is the direct result of the enormous effort and sacrifice of our forefathers, from the pioneers who first settled the Nation, to the veterans who gave their lives to defend it and the values we stand for. We must never forget the precious gift they gave us. It is ours to preserve for future generations.

Inspired by the Freedom Train that toured the United States with American historical documents after the Second World War, the National Exchange Club resolved to display documents from U.S. history in communities throughout the Nation so that Americans of all ages would have easy access to the rich heritage of their

past. Since 1949, many freedom shrines have been installed by exchange clubs in various communities across the Nation, Puerto Rico, and at American outposts around the world. From State capitols to U.S. warships, and hundreds of schools across the Nation, freedom shrines serve as an invaluable reference for students and other citizens seeking information or inspiration from these historic treasures.

Again, I congratulate the Exchange Club of Rapid City, Maurice Wintersteen, Hot Springs VA Director Dan Marsh, and all our veterans for their ongoing commitment to the preservation of American principles. Their deep pride in the history, traditions, and values of our great State and Nation are reflected in the Freedom Shrine. Most important, they have given present and future generations of South Dakotans a precious and lasting gift. I salute everyone involved with this inspiring project.

#### THE FUTURE OF THE B-1B BOMBER IS SECURE

Mr. PRESSLER. Mr. President, last week the Pentagon released a much-anticipated report by the Institute for Defense Analyses [IDA] on our Nation's heavy bomber force structure. This report, the heavy bomber study, examined the deployment options of our long-range heavy bomber forces—in association with additional tactical forces—under the circumstances of two hypothetical, nearly simultaneous world conflicts. To date, the IDA study is the most comprehensive, in-depth analysis of the use of our Nation's three heavy bombers—the B-1 bomber [B-1B], the B-2 stealth bomber, and the B-52—in a conventional war-fighting role.

I am pleased that the IDA study confirmed what I have said for quite some time: The B-1B is an efficient and effective long-range bomber, and it can be used successfully as the centerpiece of American airpower projection. The IDA study suggests that planned conventional upgrades to the B-1B would be more cost-effective than purchasing 20 additional B-2 bombers. Further, the study recommends that remaining B-2 bomber production preservation funds should be reallocated to other weapons and conventional upgrades. That would allow for a total bomber force consisting of 95 B-1B's, 66 B-52's, and 20 B-2's.

As my colleagues know, the B-1B was developed and built at the height of the cold war. Thus, it was anticipated that its function would be limited to meeting one of several nuclear options. However, the B-1B has shown to be an effective conventional force component—a testament to designers, Air Force strategists and pilots who recognized the versatility of this aircraft.

Time and again, the B-1B has had to meet new challenges. For example, the 1994 congressionally mandated assessment test of the B-1B, performed by the 28th Bomber Wing at Ellsworth Air